GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3893
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
ORGANIC FARMING
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding growth rate in the organic food business during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy to encourage consumption and growth of organic produce by popularizing its utility and profitability among consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Organic food sector is in nascent stage and State-wise information on its growth is not available.However,Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have reported export growth rate of organic produce at 31%, 10% and 187%, valued at Rs. 95.33 crore, Rs. 104.87 crore and Rs. 301.24 crore during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

(b)&(c): At present the Government has no proposal to formulate a new policy to encourage consumption and growth of organic produce.However,the Government has already taken up a National Project on Organic Farming from the year 2004-05 onwards for production, promotion and market development of Organic Farming in the country.The main components under the project are: training programmes and field demonstrations on organic farming;setting up of organic input units; capacity building through service providers and market development.

Apart from above, assistance is being provided under National Horticulture Mission for organic cultivation of horticultural crops, setting up of vermin-compost units and organic certification.